From: City of Winnipeg
To: Cormier, Terry
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Winnipeg Police Service

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Catalytic Converter – Update

In 2021, vehicle accessories (including catalytic converters) replaced liquor as the most stolen property *The Winnipeg Police Service 2021 Statistical Report*. Over 1700 reported thefts were made to police in 2021, with the trend continuing into 2022.

The Winnipeg Police Service, Manitoba Justice and Crime Stoppers have all engaged in a multi-pronged approach to decrease the incidence of catalytic converter thefts.

As previously released, the Winnipeg Police Service's Property Crime Unit entered into a four-month investigation called "Project Precious." This project was named after the precious and lucrative metals found in the composition of a catalytic converter.

As a result of this project, in June 2022, two adults associated with a Springfield scrap metal dealer were arrested and charged in relation to purchasing and selling stolen catalytic converters.

In July, WPS arrested four more individuals during a traffic stop with stolen catalytic converters.

On the heels of Project Precious, the Province of Manitoba introduced a new bill requiring scrap metal dealers to follow strict regulations when buying and selling certain metal products. Anyone wishing to sell such restricted items must provide government identification at the time of sale, and dealers are required to keep accurate and up-to-date records of transactions.

Police also have the authority to conduct random checks at metal dealers and enforce the bill's new requirements.

With funding made available from Criminal Property Forfeiture, Crime Stoppers

launched an engraving initiative called "Save Your Cat." Vehicle owners can bring their vehicle to auto service centres and have their catalytic converter engraved with the vehicle serial number (V.I.N) and painted with a high visibility paint. This program is a deterrent for thieves, as an engraved (stolen) cat will not be accepted at a scrap dealer since the enactment of the new Provincial scrap metal act.

Current Statistics:

2022	Total # of Catalytic Converter Thefts
Jan	186
Feb	219
Mar	280
Apr	353
May	283
June	122
July	78
Aug	31
Total	1552

With a combination of Project Precious, ongoing police enforcement, the new scrap metal act and Crime Stopper's engraving program, the number of catalytic converter thefts reported to WPS has plummeted.

The Winnipeg Police Service encourages the public to remain mindful when parking your vehicle. Aim for a locked garage and a well-lit area when possible.

For more information on the scrap metal act and the "save your cat" program, follow the links below:

http://saveyourcat.ca/

https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-3/b200e.php

Assault – Arrests: C22-216869

On September 19, at approximately 12:45 p.m., the Winnipeg Police Service responded to Sturgeon Heights Collegiate for the report of a fight involving several individuals.

On September 16, 2022, two male youths (both students at Sturgeon Heights) were involved in a physical altercation which was not reported to police.

On September 19, the incident culminated in both parties once again becoming involved in a heated argument resulting in an assault. The two adults (known to the youths) were also involved in the incident.

West District General Patrol officers attended the school and located a 13-year-old male, a 16-year-old male, and one male adult suffering from the effects of what is believed to be bear spray repellent. The 16-year-old male was also found to be suffering from upper-body injuries. The second involved male adult was uninjured.

Officers seized homemade “brass knuckles” from one of the adults but did not recover the repellent. Both adults and the 13-year-old male were arrested without incident, and none of the parties required medical assistance.

A **38-year-old male** of Winnipeg is facing the following charge:
- Assault

A **13-year-old male youth** of Winnipeg is facing the following charge:
- Assault

A **36-year-old male** of Winnipeg is facing the following charges:
- Unauthorized Possession of a Prohibited or Restricted Weapon
- Carrying Concealed Weapon Prohibited Device or Ammunition

All were released on Undertakings as mandated by the Criminal Code.

“The safety and security of students continue to be a top priority for school and divisional leaders.” the St. James - Assiniboia School Division communicated concerning the isolated incident. Classes were not disrupted and lockdown protocols were not required.

The investigation is continuing.

Insecure Premises – Arrests: C22-216926

On September 19, 2022, the Winnipeg Police Service patrolling the North End observed an insecure premise in the 300 block of College Avenue known to be vacant.

West District General Patrol officers and Community Support Unit members attended and located sixteen (16) trespassers within the premises. All were initially arrested for being ‘Unlawfully in a Dwelling House’. While searching and securing the premises, officers located and seized the following items:

- loaded 12-gauge semi-automatic shotgun
- loaded prohibited revolver with obliterated serial number
- .22 caliber ammunition x 8

- shotgun shells x 4

An unoccupied stolen vehicle was also recovered at the rear of the premises and seized.

Darnell Cole Williams, 28, of Winnipeg, was charged with the following gun-related offences:

- Possession of a Prohibited or Restricted Firearm with Ammunition
- Possession of a Firearm Knowing Serial Number has been Tampered With
- Store Firearm or Restricted Weapon Contrary to Regulations
- Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm

He was detained in custody.

In addition, officers arrested five individuals on the strength of outstanding warrants from different jurisdictions.

All sixteen trespassers were cautioned for being ‘Unlawfully in a Dwelling House’ at the property owner's request before officers secured the premises.

For further information contact either:
Constable Jay Murray, Public Information Officer
Constable Dani McKinnon, Public Information Officer
Constable Claude Chancy, Public Information Officer
Kelly Dehn, Manager of Public Affairs

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